

# HEART OF AMERICA

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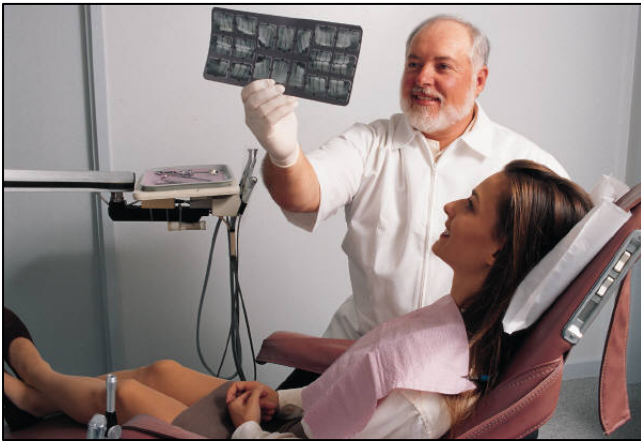
## MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

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### Disaster Preparedness: The Dental Team's Role



During a public health emergency, health departments know that medical volunteers will be a critically needed resource. Traditional medical professionals, however, may be in short supply. Planning ahead to train and utilize local dental professionals is one way local public health departments can identify additional medical resources. On May 24, 2005, The Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps presented a national satellite broadcast training for dentists and dental hygienists in Shawnee County. The broadcast, entitled *Disaster Preparedness: The Dental Team's Role*, outlines the role

of dental professionals in disaster response and during public health emergencies. An overview of Category A agents (as identified by the CDC) is included in the two hour broadcast, as well as information about how dental professionals can help local public health agencies in mass dispensing operations, and how dental societies can coordinate for all-hazard disaster response. The satellite broadcast was produced by the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Dental Society and the Illinois Dental Hygienists Association. Tisha Sinclair and Alice Weingartner gave a 30 minute update on local public health emergency planning and preparedness prior to the broadcast. Dental professionals were encouraged to register with the Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps as emergency volunteers. The Kansas Dental Board approved the training for 2.5 continuing education hours for dentists and dental hygienists. Several dentists and dental hygienists who attended *Disaster Preparedness: The Dental Team's Role* on May 24<sup>th</sup> volunteered for the Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps. Shawnee County will host another session on September 8, 2005 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Shawnee County Health Agency Auditorium. If you are interested in conducting this training in your community, the slideshow for the national broadcast, as well as information about the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry's Disaster Emergency Medicine Readiness Training Center, can be found at [www.demrt.org](http://www.demrt.org).



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## Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps Implements ID Cards



As an improvement to their emergency point of dispensing (POD) process, the Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps has developed volunteer badges that can be scanned at a POD site to check people in and out. Shawnee County Emergency Management recently purchased the equipment necessary to make these identification badges and they have allowed the Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps to use it. The identification badges feature a color photograph of the Medical Reserve Corps volunteer, the Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps unit logo, the status of the individual (e.g., "volunteer") and the response *level* of the Medical Reserve Corps volunteer. The Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps groups volunteers into three levels to quickly identify and utilize their specific skills in an emergency situation:

- ❑ **Level 1** includes professionally licensed or certified volunteers. Volunteers with a current medical license can give vaccinations, help prepare vaccinations, prepare and hand out medication, provide medical screening, etc. Licensed mental health professionals can provide counseling, mental health consultation, or assist distressed or traumatized people.
- ❑ **Level 2** includes volunteers with medical skills and experience who may not be currently licensed. These volunteers can be greeters to provide orientations and walk patients through paperwork, answer patient questions, provide patient assistance at the registration area, and facilitate the education sessions at the site. Volunteers with translation/interpretation skills can float to different areas to provide translation services for patients.

- ❑ **Level 3** includes volunteers without medical or mental health counseling skills who can provide a variety of functions including clinic flow assistance to ensure an orderly flow of people, forms collection and data entry, and logistics support services, such as computer support, supply stocking, etc.

The identification cards also feature a magnetic strip on the back containing biometric data on each Medical Reserve Corps volunteer. These identification cards will help integrate the Medical Reserve Corps volunteers into the county's emergency services infrastructure and allow them to function as an integral element of the jurisdiction's emergency response team. In addition, the identification cards enhance scene security and provide the Medical Reserve Corps volunteers with better access during an emergency. For more information on the Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps' identification cards, contact Tisha Sinclair at (785) 368-2736 or [tisha.sinclair@co.shawnee.ks.us](mailto:tisha.sinclair@co.shawnee.ks.us).

## Upcoming Events and Training



**Public Health Homeland Security Summit 2005.** July 7-8, 2005 in Arlington, Virginia. Organized by the Performance Institute. For more information, visit: [http://www.performanceweb.org/Centers/Law\\_Enforcement/Events/L169/L169.htm](http://www.performanceweb.org/Centers/Law_Enforcement/Events/L169/L169.htm).

**NACCHO-ASTHO 2005 Joint Conference: Reversing the Tide: Promoting Policies and Programs to Advance the Nation's Health.** July 12-15, 2005 in Boston, Massachusetts. For more information, visit: [http://www.naccho.org/conferences/annual\\_conference.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/conferences/annual_conference.cfm).

**Region VII Health and Medical Conference.** July 26-28, 2005 in Independence, Missouri. For more information, contact Captain Jim Imholte, Regional Emergency Coordinator, at (816) 426-3490 or [jim.imholte@hhs.gov](mailto:jim.imholte@hhs.gov).

**Region VII Medical Reserve Corps Conference.** August 2, 2005 in the Kansas City metropolitan area. For more information, contact Gary Brown at (816) 426-2829 or [gbrown2@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:gbrown2@osophs.dhhs.gov).

**Summer Institute for Public Health Practice.** August 22-26, 2005 in Seattle, Washington. Sponsored by the American Public Health Association (APHA). Theme is "Public Health Preparedness: Tools for the Frontline." Visit <http://healthlinks.washington.edu/nwcp/h/niphp/> for more information.

**Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management.** September 12-13, 2005 in New Haven, Connecticut. Sponsored by the Yale-New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response. For more information, visit: <http://www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/natlconf.html>.

**Eighth Annual Conference on Innovations in Disaster Mental Health.** September 22-24, 2005 in Rapid City, South Dakota. Sponsored by the Disaster Mental Health Institute at the University of South Dakota. For more information on the conference, visit: <http://www.usd.edu/dmhi/conference.cfm>.

**IAEM 2005 Annual Conference and EMEX.** November 12-16, 2005 in Phoenix, Arizona. Sponsored by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www.iaem.com/events/annual/intro.htm>.

### Enhancements Made to Medical Reserve Corps Website

The Medical Reserve Corps national program office has added two enhancements to the Medical Reserve Corps website. First, new regional sections have been added to the message board section of the website, enhancing users' ability to network, share information and engage in targeted talks about topics pertaining to your particular state and region. According to the Medical Reserve Corps national program office, this enhancement "will serve as an added resource to you, as you work to learn from each other, as well as make stronger connections with your neighbors." This change will not affect the national forums on the message board. These will remain at the top of the Medical Reserve Corps message board page, so that you may still connect with other Medical Reserve Corps coordinators and volunteers from across the country. These specific

forums are there for you to find information about credentialing, sustainability and other topics of interest to many involved with the Medical Reserve Corps program. Log on to the new regional section of the message board at [www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov).

In addition to the new regional forums on the message board, the "Resources" section of the Medical Reserve Corps website now includes an area for posting published articles related to the Medical Reserve Corps program. To access this feature, go to "Resources" on the Medical Reserve Corps homepage (<http://medicalreservecorps.gov/resources/>), click on "Medical Reserve Corps Articles" and then click on either "Articles by Outside Sources" or "Articles by Program Office Staff." The Medical Reserve Corps national program office staff has indicated they would like to add to this section quite a bit over the next year. For more information on these enhancements to the Medical Reserve Corps website, contact Gary Brown, Regional Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, at (816) 426-2829 or [gbrown2@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:gbrown2@osophs.dhhs.gov).

### Region VII Health and Medical Conference in July

A Region VII Health and Medical Conference will be held on July 26-28, 2005 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence, MO. This two day conference (it will begin at noon on July 26<sup>th</sup> and end at noon on July 28<sup>th</sup> to allow for travel) will address the planning, coordination and cooperation necessary between local, state and federal public health and medical organizations in order to effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from large-scale emergencies and disasters. Those invited to attend this conference include representatives of public health agencies, hospitals, EMS agencies, emergency management agencies, fire departments, law enforcement agencies, volunteer organizations, Metropolitan Medical Response Systems, Medical Reserve Corps units and other organizations involved in emergency preparedness and operations. For more information on this conference, contact Captain Jim Imholte, Regional Emergency Coordinator, at (816) 426-3490 or [jim.imholte@hhs.gov](mailto:jim.imholte@hhs.gov).

### Region VII Medical Reserve Corps Conference in August

Save the date! The Region VII Medical Reserve Corps Conference will be held on August 2, 2005 in the Kansas City area. Stay tuned . . . more information on the conference will be available in the near future.